

Non-Secure Item***Non-Secure Item***Non-Secure Item***Non-Secure Item

ISTEP+ Applied Skills Sample for Classroom Use

ELA – Grade 3

(Writing Prompt)



The Flea, the Grasshopper, and the Frog

1 The flea, the grasshopper, and the frog once wanted to see which of them could jump highest, so they invited the whole world to come and view the grand sight. Everyone met together in a room to watch the three famous jumpers.

2 The king, who was in attendance for the competition, said, "You must have a prize for your contest! I will give my daughter's hand in marriage to the one who jumps the highest."

3 The flea was the first to introduce himself. He had very polite manners and bowed to the company on every side. He was used to being around people, which was a great advantage to him.

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4 Next came the grasshopper. He was not quite as elegant as the flea; however, he knew how to conduct himself. He wore a green uniform, which belonged to him by right of birth. Moreover, he declared himself to have sprung from a very ancient and honorable Egyptian family. In his present home he said he was very highly esteemed; so much so, indeed, that he had been taken out of the field where he learned to jump and put into a card house three stories high.

5 "And I can sing so well," added he. "Even sixteen house-bred crickets, who have chirped and chirped and chirped ever since they were born, could never get anybody to build them a card house!"

6 Both the flea and the grasshopper knew well how to present themselves, and each considered himself quite an equal match for a Princess.

7 The frog said not a word. The house-dog, after going sniffing about him very carefully, confessed that the frog must be of a good family. And the King's old and trusted friend declared that the frog must be gifted with untold talents.

8 "Ah! I say nothing for the present," remarked the old King, "but I observe everything and will form my own opinion. Now let them show us what they can do."

9 And so the match began.

10 The flea jumped so high that no one could see what had become of him, and so they insisted that he had not jumped at all.

11 The grasshopper only jumped half as high, but unfortunately he jumped right into the King's face, and the King was quite disgusted by his rudeness.

12 The frog stood still as if lost in thought; at last people fancied he did not intend to jump at all.

13 "I'm afraid he is ill!" said the dog, and he went sniffing at him again to see if he could find out what was wrong. Then, all at once, the frog made a little sidelong jump into the lap of the Princess, who was sitting on a low stool close by.

14 Immediately the King gave his judgment.

15 "There is nothing more prized to me than my daughter," said he. "Therefore, it is plain that he who jumps up to her jumps highest, and only someone worthy would ever have thought of that. The frog has shown us that he has good judgment. He has brains in his head!" And thus the frog won the Princess's hand in marriage.

Source: <http://www.kellscraft.com/leapingmatch.html>

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Passage: The Flea, the Grasshopper, and the Frog

Content Standard:

3.W.3.2: Write informative compositions on a variety of topics that –

- State the topic, develop a main idea for the introductory paragraph, and group related information together.
- Develop the topic with facts and details.
- Connect ideas within categories of information using words and phrases.
- Use text features (e.g., *pictures, graphics*) when useful to aid comprehension.
- Provide a concluding statement or section.

Item Type: Writing Prompt

Pts: 10

DOK: 4

Grade: 3

You have read the story “The Flea, the Grasshopper, and the Frog.” Think about the lesson of the story. What did the frog do? Why did the King think the frog won the competition? What do you think is the lesson of this story? Write an essay that explains the lesson, using details from the story.

Be sure to include

- an explanation of the lesson
- details about events in the story to support the lesson
- an introduction, a body, and a conclusion